

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 SAB-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 SCCT-01 /097 W

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R 081332Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2367

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MO, SS, SP, UN

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: SPANISH DOUBTS ABOUT

MOROCCAN/ALGERIAN UNDERSTANDING AND

DISTURBANCES IN COLONY

REF : ALGIERS 1508

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFF
JULY 7 THAT GOS VIEWED JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY MOROCCO
AND ALGERIA JULY 4 WITH SOME SKEPTICISM. THERE HAD BEEN
TOO MANY INSTANCES IN PAST WHEN MAGHREB COUNTRIES HAD
REACHED SHORT-LIVED UNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT HOW SAHARA SHOULD
BE DECOLONIZED. MFA OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT NEW COM-
PLICATING FACTOR WAS EVIDENT IN SPEECH MADE JULY 5 BY
LIBYAN LEADER QADHAFI. SPANISH INTERPRETATION OF SPEECH
WAS THAT QADHAFI SEEMED TO MOVE AWAY FROM SUPPORT WHICH HE
VOICED THREE WEEKS EARLIER FOR MOROCCO'S CLAIM TO SAHARA
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TOWARDS POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION.

2. LOCAL MEDIA JULY 7 AND 8 CONTAINED EXTENSIVE ACCOUNTS OF DISTURBANCES IN SPANISH SAHARA INVOLVING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN FOLLOWERS OF F POLISARIO AND PUNS, TWO ORGANIZATIONS FAVORING INDEPENDENCE OF TERRITORY. (SECGEN OF PUNS DESERTED ORGANIZATION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND APPEARED IN MOROCCO. LOSS OF LEADER RESULTED IN TEMPORARY ECLIPSE OF THIS SPANISH-SPONSORED LOCAL POLITICAL PARTY. IN RECENT WEEKS PUNS HAS COME TO LIFE AGAIN AND HELD SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN EL AAIUN.) ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THERE WERE MORE THAN 50 WOUNDED IN STREET FIGHTS BETWEEN F POLISARIO FOLLOWERS AND PUNS FOLLOWERS JULY 6. LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARRESTED 154 MEMBERS OF F POLISARIO. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT STATES THAT THERE WAS "TOTAL CONFUSION IN ALL OF EL AAIUN". SPANISH FOREIGN LEGION TROOPS SEALED OFF CITY AND CONTROLLED ALL TRAFFIC AFTER THREE HOURS OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. ON JULY 7 A BOMB WENT OFF IN EL AAIUN WITHOUT CAUSING ANY DAMAGE.

3. IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH "INFORMACIONES" (INDEPENDENT) JULY 7, SECGEN OF SAHARA LT.COL.RODRIGUEZ DE VIGURI STATED THAT PUNS NOW HAD MEMBERSHIP TOTALING APPROX 15,000 WHEREAS F POLISARIO HAD ONLY 3,000. LATTER, HOWEVER, HAD STRONGER ORGANIZATION AND BETTER LEADERS, HE ACKNOWLEDGED. ASKED IF SAHARANS WERE PREPARED FOR INDEPENDENCE, VIGURI SAID PEOPLE WERE NOT ONLY PREPARED BUT SAHARA ITSELF WAS VIABLE. VIGURI ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE OF TWO SPANISH OPERATIONAL PLANS (A) OPERATION "SWALLOW" TO EVACUATE CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND (B) OPERATION "CAMEL" DESIGNED TO REMOVE TO SPAIN DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE BEING MICROFILMED AND PREPARED FOR SHIPMENT TO SPAIN. VIGURI SAID THAT HE MET WITH THREE DIFFERENT COMMITTEES EVERY TWO DAYS TO STUDY DETAILS OF THESE EVACUATION PLANS IN THE EVENT THAT THEY HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT.

4. COMMENT: OUTBREAK OF STREET DISTURBANCES BETWEEN RIVAL POLITICAL GROUPS, REPORTEDLY AGGRAVATED BY TRIBAL RIVALRIES, IN SAHARA HAS COMPLICATED SPANISH EFFORT TO PREPARE SAHARANS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION. LOCAL ASSEMBLY WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET JULY 7 WITH REPS FROM PUNS AND

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F POLISARIO. SO FAR, HOWEVER, LATTER HAVE REFUSED TO COLLABORATE.

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